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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following

remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-4, 6-21, 25-29 and 32-35 are pending, with claims 22-24, 30 and 31

being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 6 and 34 have been amended. Claim 5 has been

cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 was

cancelled by previous amendment. No new matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter

This amendment follows the September 6, 2006 mailing of a Notice of Panel

Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review. The panel determined that claims 25-29 and 35 are

allowed.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 25. Claim 6 has been

amended to depend from allowed claim 27. Claim 34 has been amended to depend from claim 2.

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Applicant submits that claims 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance based at least on their dependency from allowed claims 25 and 27, respectively. Claims 3, 4, 9-21, 25-29 and 32-34 depend from claim 2. Claims 7-8 depend from claim 6. Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 7-21, 25-29 and 32-34 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated April 6, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 2-4, 6-21, 25-29 and 32-35 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: October 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted

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